

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning
~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of
5 said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling ~~the~~ an operation of said image
processing apparatus based on said application data stored in
said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores
10 application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and
for obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data
stored in said data storage means to provide said update data
obtained by said data acquisition means; and

15 acquisition method storage means for storing, in advance, an
acquisition method designated for obtaining said update data,

wherein, when instruction information for instructing ~~the~~
updating of said application data is entered in said image
processing apparatus, said data acquisition means accesses said
20 server in accordance with said acquisition method stored in said
acquisition method storage means and obtains said update data.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition method storage means stores setup data that are required to obtain said update data using said acquisition method designated in advance.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~said acquisition method storage means stores, as~~ said setup data ~~[[,]] at least one~~ includes an address for said server ~~for storing that stores the~~ update data
5 and an ID or a password for accessing said server.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition method is one of a method ~~for~~ using HTTP (Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol) ~~or~~ and a method using FTP (File Transfer Protocol).

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said instruction information includes data type information indicating ~~the~~ a type of said update data; and

5 wherein, at least based on ~~, at the least, either one of:~~
(i) the data type information included in said instruction information, (ii) ~~or one of several~~ identification data ~~sets for~~
~~a serial number unique to~~ for said image processing apparatus

that is stored in said image processing apparatus, said
10 identification data including one of a serial number unique to
said image processing apparatus, a product number, a model name,
a product version, a model version, and ~~or~~ an application data
version ~~that is stored in said image processing apparatus~~, said
data acquisition means specifies update data stored in one of an
15 HTTP server ~~or~~ and an FTP server and obtains said specified
update data from said one of the HTTP server ~~or~~ and the ~~said~~ FTP
server.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition method is a method
~~for~~ using electronic mail.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein said instruction information ~~is~~
~~entered through using an operating unit of said image processing~~
~~apparatus, or~~ is received from an external device connected to
5 said image processing apparatus.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
according to claim 1, further comprising:

validity condition setup means for setting a condition [[,]]
for a validity term or a validity limit [[,]] under which said

5 data acquisition means obtains said update data or said data
update means updates said application data; and

inhibiting means for, ~~inhibiting~~, when said instruction
information entered for said image processing apparatus does not
satisfy said condition designated by said validity condition

10 setup means, inhibiting the operation of said data acquisition
means for acquiring said update data, or of said data updating
means for updating said application data.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
according to claim 1, further comprising:

validity condition setup means for setting a condition [[,]]
for a validity term or a validity limit [[,]] under which said
5 data acquisition means obtains said update data or said data
update means updates said application data; and

instruction error notification means for, when said
instruction information entered for said image processing
apparatus does not satisfy said condition designated by said
10 validity condition setup means, issuing a notification to a
transmission source of said instruction information that said
instruction information does not satisfy said condition
concerning said validity term or said validity limit.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said validity condition setup means designates said condition concerning said validity term or said validity limit one of: (i) based on validity information for said validity term or said validity limit included in said instruction information, ~~or (ii)~~ in accordance with an instruction received from an external device connected to said image processing apparatus, and (iii) ~~or~~ an instruction entered using said operating means of said image processing apparatus.

11. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data acquisition means accesses said server by using said acquisition method stored in said acquisition method storage means, and obtains test data for a communication test.

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

error detection means for, when said test data are obtained by said data acquisition means, detecting one of an error that has occurred before said test data are obtained, ~~or~~ and an error in said obtained test data; and

communication error notification means for providing notification that said error has been detected by said error detection means.

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data [[,]] concerning ~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus [[,]] so
5 that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling ~~the~~ an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores
10 application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data [[,]] stored in said data storage means [[,]] as said update data obtained by said data acquisition means; and

15 acquisition method selection means for selecting, from among a plurality of acquisition methods ~~prepared to obtain~~ for obtaining said update data, an acquisition method to be used for the acquisition of said update data,

wherein, when instruction information for instructing ~~the~~
20 updating of said application data is entered in said image

processing apparatus, said data acquisition means accesses said server [[,]] by using said acquisition method selected by said acquisition method selection means [[,]] and obtains said update data.

14. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said acquisition method selection means ~~selects an acquisition method used for the acquisition of update data, and~~ designates setup data required to obtain said update data using said selected acquisition method.

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ 14, wherein said setup data includes ~~, at the least, one~~ an address for said server ~~used to store that stores~~ said update data, and a required ID or password for accessing said server.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein [[,]] the acquisition method selection means designates said setup data based on one of setup data entered using an operating unit for said image processing apparatus ~~or~~ and setup data entered using an external device connected to said image processing apparatus ~~, said acquisition~~

~~method selection means designates required setup data by using
said acquisition method employed to obtain said update data.~~

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
comprising:

data storage means for storing application data [[,]]
concerning ~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus [[,]] so
5 that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling ~~the~~ an operation of said image
processing apparatus based on said application data stored in
said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores
10 application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and
for obtaining said update data; and

data updating means for rewriting said application data
[[,]] stored in said data storage means [[,]] to provide said
update data obtained by said data acquisition means,

15 wherein a plurality of acquisition methods for obtaining
said update data are selectably prepared, in advance, ~~, and are~~
~~used for the acquisition of update data.~~

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
comprising:

data storage means for storing application data [[,]]
concerning ~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus [[,]] so
5 that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling ~~the~~ an operation of said image
processing apparatus based on said application data stored in
said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores
10 application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and
for obtaining said update data; and

data updating means for rewriting said application data
stored in said data storage means to provide said update data
obtained by said data acquisition means,

15 wherein, when instruction information [[,]] for instructing
~~the~~ updating of said application data [[,]] is entered in said
image processing apparatus, said data acquisition means specifies
update data, stored in said server, at least based on ~~, at the~~
~~least, either~~ one of data type information ~~indicating the which~~
20 indicates a type of update data and which is included in said
instruction information ~~or~~ and identification information which
is [[,]] stored in said image processing apparatus ~~, for~~
~~identifying and which identifies individual the image processing~~
~~apparatuses apparatus, and for obtaining said data acquisition~~
25 means obtains said specified update data from said server.

19. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said identification information includes one of a serial number unique to said image processing apparatus, a product name, a model name, a product version, a model version ~~or~~ and an application data version.

20. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data [[,]] concerning ~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus [[,]] so that rewriting of application data is enabled;

control means for controlling ~~the~~ an operation of said image processing apparatus [[,]] based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data [[,]] stored in said data storage means [[,]] to provide said update data obtained by said data acquisition means;

validity condition setup means for setting a condition [[,]] for a validity term or a validity limit [[,]] under which said application data is updated by said data updating means; and

inhibiting means for, ~~inhibiting~~, when said condition set by
said validity condition setup means is not satisfied, inhibiting
the operation of said data updating means for updating said
application data.

21. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
comprising:

data storage means for storing application data [[,]]
concerning ~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus [[,]] so
that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling ~~the~~ an operation of said image
processing apparatus based on said application data stored in
said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores,
as update data, application data used for updating, and for
obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data
[[,]] stored in said data storage means [[,]] to provide said
update data obtained by said data acquisition means;

validity condition setup means for setting a condition [[,]]
for a validity term or a validity limit [[,]] under which said
application data is updated by said data updating means; and

inhibiting means for inhibiting, when said condition set by
said validity condition setup means is not satisfied, ~~the~~ an

20 operation of said data acquisition means for obtaining said
application data.

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
according to claim 20, further comprising:

instruction error notification means for issuing, when said
instruction information entered in said image processing
5 apparatus for instructing the updating of said application data
does not satisfy said condition designated by said validity
condition setup means, a notification provided for a transmission
source of said instruction information ~~to the effect~~ notifying
that said instruction information does not satisfy said condition
10 for said validity term or said validity limit.

23. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus
according to claim 22, wherein said validity condition setup
means designates said condition $[[,]]$ for said validity term or
said validity limit $[[,]]$ one of: (i) based on validity
5 information for said validity term or said validity limit that is
included in said instruction information, ~~or~~ (ii) in accordance
with an instruction received from an external device connected to
said image processing apparatus, and (iii) ~~or~~ an instruction
entered at an operating unit of said image processing apparatus.

24. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus, which transmits, to an image processing apparatus that stores application data that concerns ~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus and that is to be rewritten, instruction information
5 instructing ~~the~~ acquisition, from a server, of update data for said application data and ~~the~~ rewriting of said application data using said update data,

wherein validity data designating a condition for a validity term or a validity limit, for obtaining said update data or for
10 updating said application data, are added to said instruction information and are transmitted to said image processing apparatus.

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data [[,]] concerning ~~the~~ usage of said image processing apparatus [[,]] so
5 that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling ~~the~~ an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores
10 application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data; and

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means using said update data obtained by said data acquisition means,

15 wherein, upon receiving an instruction to obtain test data for a communication test which are stored by said server, said data acquisition means accesses said server ~~in which test data are stored~~ and obtains said test data from said server.

26. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

5 error detection means for, when said test data are obtained by said data acquisition means, detecting one of an error that occurred up until said test data were obtained ~~, or~~ and an error in said obtained test data; and

communication error notification means for transmitting notification of said error detected by said error detection means.

27. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus, which transmits, to an image processing apparatus that stores application data ~~, concerning the~~ that concerns usage of said image processing apparatus ~~[[,]]~~ and that is to be rewritten, 5 instruction information instructing ~~the~~ acquisition from a server of update data for said application data ~~[[,]]~~ and ~~the~~ rewriting

of said application data using said update data, said data
processing apparatus comprising:

10 setup instruction means for instructing said image
processing apparatus to instruct ~~the~~ a setup of an acquisition
method for obtaining said update data; and

 data acquisition instruction means for instructing said
image processing apparatus to obtain test data for a
communication test.

28. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, which inhibits said data acquisition means from
obtaining said update data, or said data updating means from
updating said application data, while said image processing
5 apparatus is performing another process.